

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-42 (canceled)

43. (new) A method for identifying a compound which decreases the activity of osteoprotegerin binding protein (OPGbp) comprising: adding to a cell culture a test compound under conditions where the cell culture forms osteoclasts in the presence of OPGbp; and measuring osteoclast formation, wherein a decrease in osteoclast formation in the presence of the test compound indicates that the compound decreases the activity of OPGbp.

44. (new) A method for identifying a compound which increases the activity of osteoprotegerin binding protein (OPGbp) comprising: adding to a cell culture a test compound under conditions where the cell culture forms osteoclasts in the presence of OPGbp; and measuring osteoclast formation, wherein an increase in osteoclast formation in the presence of the test compound indicates that the compound increases the activity of OPGbp.

45. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound binds to OPGbp.

46. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound binds to ODAR.

47. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment thereof.

48. (new) The method of Claim 47 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment thereof which binds OPGbp.

49. (new) The method of Claim 47 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment thereof which binds ODAR.

50. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound is derived from human OPGbp.

51. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound is derived from human ODAR.

52. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound comprises part or all of the extracellular domain of human ODAR.

53. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein the test compound comprises part or all of the extracellular domain of human OPGbp.

54. (new) The method of Claims 43 or 44 wherein OPGbp comprises the amino acid sequence from residues 1 to 317 inclusive as shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof.

55. (new) The method of Claim 53 wherein the extracellular domain of human OPGbp comprises residues 69-317 inclusive as shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof.

56. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the test compound increases bone density.

57. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the test compound decreases bone resorption.